



UNITED NATIONS
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



ASTA

AGRIFOOD SYSTEMS
TRANSFORMATION ACCELERATOR



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TRANSFORMATION ACCELERATOR

United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

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ASTA is a global program – co-led by UNIDO and FAO – that works with countries to transform their agrifood systems.

That matters in today's climate when too many agrifood systems around the world break down under pressure from a wide range of shocks and stresses.

The ASTA team consists of facilitators skilled in bringing to life partnerships and SDG-linked investments into high-potential value chains that connect producers to processing and added value to end markets.

We use our expertise to turn potential into prosperity. Our work helps countries develop and execute coherent strategies that lead to sustainable and resilient agrifood systems thanks to our concrete impact on the ground.



USD 5 trillion
the size of the global food and agribusiness industry

USD 12 trillion
(a year)
the hidden environmental, health and economic costs of the agrifood system

Post-farm gate, the agrifood system generates
2 to 5 times
the value of farm-level production

How we work

1 **First assessment**

In response to a request from government, we carry out a first assessment of how we can help – which can also include a value chain selection exercise.

2 **Value chain analysis**

We conduct a value chain analysis and design a value chain upgrading strategy, which follow our ASTA methodology.

3 **Project proposal**

We pull together the proposal for a facilitation project and bring on board the technical and financial partners to help us deliver it.

4 **Project delivery**

We run the facilitation project with our expert network of partners to embed sustainable solutions.

5 **Follow-up**

We run a light-touch project that makes sure the solutions become resilient enough to develop on their own.

6 **Global learning**

We carry out a study on our performance and impact and transfer our know-how through the global ASTA learning hub to all ASTA program beneficiaries.

What we offer



SUSTAINABLE IMPACT

We design and deliver systems-based solutions that build fresh public-private-civil society sector partnerships. We are stakeholder-driven and our projects center around learning and adapting. All this drives our approach to bring about positive socio-economic, environmental and resilience impact. And we continue to expand this in more countries and regions worldwide.

Our projects are catalysts when it comes to agrifood systems solutions that are self-sustaining and able to adapt. We use customized business models, governance and institutional networks, financing and tech tools that all connect via stakeholder and digital platforms.



PARTNERSHIP POWER

We create, manage and lead partnerships between UN and other organizations in the development space. As facilitators we bring about a process of transformation that fits a country's needs.

We start from drawing on our joint resources here at FAO and UNIDO. And then we spark fresh collaboration across sectors that draws on teams of experts, networks and delivery options that are tailor-made and get to the most effective and efficient way of providing that vital support.





TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE

We are proud of our field-tested, action-focused methodology at the core of our service. Our methodology analyses all components of the agrifood system – it looks at value chains, market systems, business models – and it designs upgrading strategies, action plans and investment packages.

Our business lies in helping countries realize their vision for sustainably transformed agrifood systems. We are here to champion strategies and plans that are owned and delivered by value chain stakeholders. This is where our facilitation project, built into the overall design, comes in.



GLOBAL BEST PRACTICE

We are problem solvers and get to the heart of global topics and trends. We push to know what works and why when it comes to having the green and inclusive angle covered in transforming agrifood systems. Over time we are transferring our know-how and experiences to an expanding network and all our projects get to take on board the latest global best practice.



INVESTMENT AT SCALE

We are all about blended finance solutions. In practice we show how public development funds can be used to de-risk SDG-linked private sector investment into agrifood systems via equity and loans. Our dialogue with our expanding national and international financial institution partners gives us the edge on mobilizing more private investment to leverage government and donor funds.

When to work with us: the right setting

Over time, we have launched our analytical and design tools and have successfully road-tested them in 15 countries in South America, the Caribbean, Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

Our program support works when:

1

the public and private sectors show a real interest in upgrading a value chain and want to invest, cooperate, change and exchange

2

a 5–10-year strategic outlook is in place to have enough time built in to learn, adapt and reach sustainable goals over time

3

the focus is on value chains with high potential to impact the agrifood system given the size, return on investment and scope and scale of outside factors

4

there is a drive to invest in deep-dive analysis and evidence-based design work for the upgrading strategy and plan using the ASTA methodology

5

the support is there for a system-wide approach that looks at everything that happens when you move from farm to fork



Join us: our network is growing

We have a network of outstanding financial, technical, business and government partners. And we are looking to grow because we believe that together we can transform agrifood systems to make them fit for purpose, and, at the same time, champion people, prosperity and the planet.

Connect with us on our digital platforms to see how we can help you develop your agrifood system or find out what you can gain by coming onboard with us as a technical or financial partner.

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